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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,595	09/29/2003	Atsushi Sakurai	1341.1162	8549
21171	7590	04/13/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BOYCE, ANDRE D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,595

Applicant(s)

SAKURAI ET AL.

Examiner

Andre Boyce

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 have been examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jenkins et al (US 2002/0188499).

As per claim 1, Jenkins et al disclose a computer program for realizing supply-demand planning in a supply chain (i.e., fulfillment system 100 allowing users to match flow of supply to demand by creating an optimal inventory strategy, ¶ 0013), the computer program making a computer execute: fetching switching information (i.e., level of each SKU and planned arrivals/orders, ¶ 0039) corresponding to a base (i.e., destination and/or source, ¶ 0039) and an item (i.e., SKU) from a table,

which contains the switching information corresponding to the base and the item (i.e., sourcing table in database 600, wherein planning component 210 determines a level for each SKU, including destinations and sources that replenish the SKU, ¶ 0039); and performing, depending upon the switching information, either of supply-demand planning per order (i.e., the planning component 210 generates planned orders to cover demand that occurs, ¶ 0048) and supply-demand planning based on total amount of orders (i.e., any demand that occurs within a period is aggregated together and met with a single planned order, ¶ 0048).

As per claim 2, Jenkins et al disclose calculating and accumulating all amounts of orders for the item to obtain the total amount of orders (i.e., planning component 210 processes all demand for a SKU, ¶ 0039).

Claim 3 is rejected based upon the rejection of claim 1, since it is the method claim corresponding to the computer program claim.

Claim 4 is rejected based upon the rejection of claim 1, since it is the computer readable recording medium claim corresponding to the computer program claim.

As per claim 5, Jenkins et al disclose a computer program for making supply-demand planning for each base (i.e., destination and/or source, ¶ 0039) in a supply chain (i.e., fulfillment system 100 allowing users to match flow of supply to demand by creating an optimal inventory strategy, ¶ 0013) in which a plurality of bases are cascaded (i.e., higher level SKUs consisting of a plurality of source SKUs, ¶ 0039), the computer program making a computer execute: processing a procurement-driven planning in which the supply-demand planning is made for a plurality of bases

associated with an order unit (i.e., planning component 210 processes all demand for a SKU, including higher level SKUs that have a plurality of sources, ¶ 0039); processing a manufacturing-driven planning in which the supply-demand planning is made based on a total amount of orders for a specific base (i.e., the planning component adjusts scheduling based upon total shipments for a source, ¶¶ 0044-45); and making the supply-demand planning for the whole supply chain by using either of the procurement-driven planning (i.e., the planning component 210 generates planned orders to cover demand that occurs, ¶ 0048) and the manufacturing-driven planning (i.e., any demand that occurs within a period is aggregated together and met with a single planned order, ¶ 0048) based on switching information that is managed associated with a combination of a base and an item (i.e., level of each SKU and planned arrivals/orders, ¶ 0039).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Lidow (USPN 6889197) disclose a supply chain network.

-Dietrich et al (USPN 5970465) disclose determining procurement for parts in a production system.

-Kaneko et al (US 2001/0020230) disclose planning a demand-supply scheme of a supply chain.

-Norton et al (US 2002/0091699) disclose managing asset information.

-Aram (US 2002/0072986) discloses systems for the acquisition, supply and management of goods and/or parts for goods.


-Drolet et al (US 2002/0147622) disclose using an electronic hub to facilitate supply chain management.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre Boyce whose telephone number is (571) 272-6726. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

adb
March 19, 2006


ANDRE BOYCE
PATENT EXAMINER
A. U. 3623